2003 ALWTRT Meeting Information

Table of Potential Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Management Options for Discussion

(See accompanying summary for further information)

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
a. DAM- Program expires in 2005 when other elements listed below are effective.	÷	÷	a. DAM- Continue to implement with mandatory closure, voluntary closure and gear modification options.
b. SAM- Finalize. Discuss options, pending research results, such as allowing floating line in the bottom third of the buoy line and allowing an additional buoy line with a bottom release link in SAM in 2005.	÷	÷	÷
c. Critical Habitat- Discuss after critical habitat re-evaluated.	÷	÷	b. Critical Habitat- Consider additional modifications to gillnet gear in GSC Sliver.
d. Gillnet- 1. Floatline: Increase the number of weak links on the floatline (i.e. to be consistent with SAM net panel configuration) year-round in all ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 2. Groundline: Phase-out of floating line on groundline[1] (i.e. between gillnet anchors and net) year-round in all ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 3. Buoy lines: 1) Prohibit coils of rope[2] on buoy lines as a universal gear requirement; 2) Buoy lines should be composed of entirely sinking and/or neutrally buoyant line except for the bottom third of the buoy line which may be floating line in areas other than SAM; 3) Require weak links on all flotation devices or weights attached to the buoy line. This will clarify that fishermen need weak links on all buoys, toggles, high flyers, etc. on a buoy line. Discuss whether additional weak links should have the same breaking strength or a different breaking strength as the main buoy weak link. 4. Expand the time period of Mid-Atlantic gillnet area requirements from December 1 through March 31 to October 1 through April 30 to correspond to occurrence of whales in this area. 5. Consider gear modifications for South Atlantic coastal gillnet fishery similar to mid-Atlantic gillnet gear modifications. 6. Consider any FMP effort reductions, changes, etc.	c. Gillnet- 1. Floatline: Increase the number of weak links on floatline (i.e. to be consistent with SAM net panel configuration) year-round in some ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 2. Groundline: Phase-out of floating line on groundline[1] (i.e. between gillnet anchors and net) year-round in some ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 3. ÷ 4. ÷ 5. ÷ 6. ÷	c. Gillnet- 1. Floatline: Increase the number of weak links on floatline (i.e. to be consistent with SAM net panel configuration) seasonally (i.e. when whales occur) in all ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 2. Groundline: Phase-out of floating line on groundline[1] (i.e. between gillnet anchors and net) seasonally (i.e. when whales occur) in all ALWTRP gillnet management areas by 2005. 3. ÷ 4. ÷ 5. ÷ 6. ÷	c. Gillnet- 3. ÷ 4. ÷ 5. ÷ 6. ÷

[1]Consider as an interim measure allowing modifications to groundline to reduce profile of line in water (e.g. adding weights)

[2]Wraps of excess buoy line just below the buoy which act as storage

NOTE: An arrow (÷) indicates a carryover of the option from the previous box

Table of Potential Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Management Options for Discussion			
Option 1 (continued)	Option 2 (continued)	Option 3 (continued)	Option 4 (continued)
e. Lobster- 1. Groundline: Phase-out of floating line on groundline[3] (i.e. between traps/pots) year-round in all ALWTRP lobster management areas by 2005. 2. Buoy line: 1) Prohibit coils of rope[4] on buoy lines as a universal gear requirement; 2) Buoy lines should be composed of entirely sinking and/or neutrally buoyant line except for the bottom third of the buoy line which may be floating line in areas other than SAM; 3) Investigate, and pending results, require 1,500 lb max. breaking strength buoy weak link in Offshore Lobster Management Area by 2005; 4) Require weak links on all flotation devices or weights attached to the buoy line. This will clarify that fishermen need weak links on all buoys, toggles, high flyers, etc. on a buoy line. Discuss whether additional weak links should have the same breaking strength or a different breaking strength as the main buoy weak link. 3. Require lobster gear modifications for Lobster Management Area 6 and specify that the requirements should be consistent with Southern Nearshore Lobster Waters. 4. Consider any FMP effort reductions, changes, etc.	d. Lobster- 1. Groundline: Phase-out floating line on ground line[3] (i.e. between traps/pots) year-round in some ALWTRP lobster management areas by 2005. 2. ÷ 3. ÷ 4. ÷	d. Lobster- 1. Groundline: Phase-out floating line on ground line[3] (i.e. between traps/pots) seasonally (i.e. when whales occur) in all ALWTRP lobster management areas by 2005. 2. ÷ 3. ÷ 4. ÷	d. Lobster- 1. Groundline: Phase-out floating line on ground line[3] (i.e. between traps/pots) seasonally (i.e. when whales occur) in all ALWTRP lobster management areas by 2005. 2. ÷ 3. ÷ 4. ÷
f. Add "Other Fisheries" to ALWTRP regulations with requirements similar to lobster trap/pot or with different gear modifications effective 2004.	÷	÷	÷
g. Consider changes to ALWTRP regulatory language (see Appendix I).	÷	÷	÷
h. Additional Management Considerations/Commitments: -Commitment to gear research (e.g. bottom release link; gear marking investigations; buoy line configurations; investigate feasibility of whale-degradable rope; research low breaking strength line; continue to support research on neutrally buoyant line, pressure sensitive rope, etc.) -Commitment to building an enforcement strategy and enforcing the ALWTRP regulations -Commitment to continued outreach -Commitment to working and coordinating efforts with Canada -Commitment to continued work on a Pilot Program for Poly Recycling Program/Gear Exchange Program -Commitment to support ghost gear/abandoned gear recovery efforts.	÷	÷	÷

[3]Consider as an interim measure allowing modifications to groundline to reduce profile of line in water (e.g. adding weights)

[4]Wraps of excess buoy line just below the buoy which act as storage

NOTE: An arrow (÷) indicates a carryover of the option from the previous box